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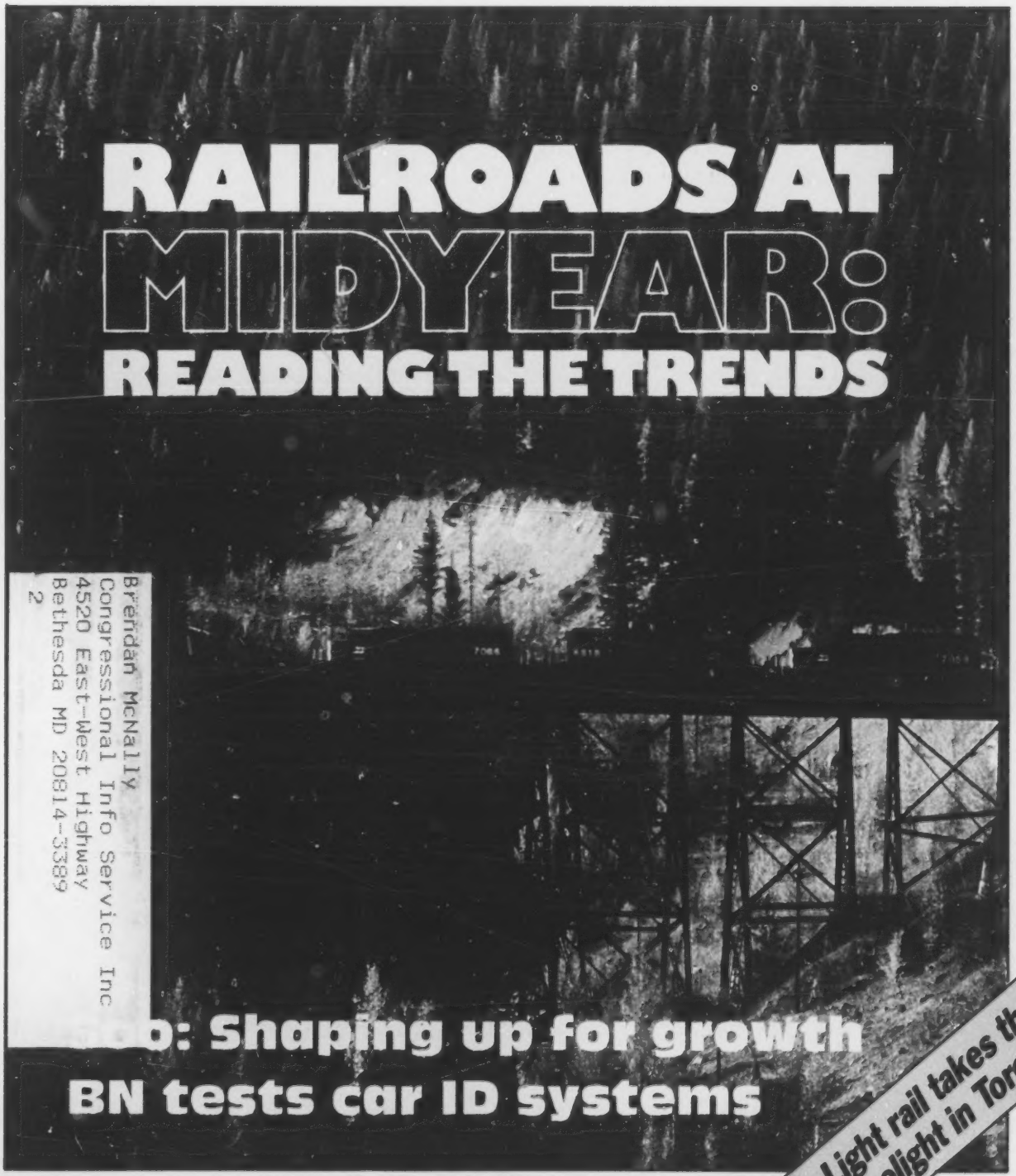
July 1988

Railway Age

...for the new age of railways and rail transit



RAILROADS AT MIDYEAR: READING THE TRENDS

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BN tests car ID systems

Light rail takes the limelight in Toronto

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Cover photo: BN at Sheeps Creek Bridge, Essex, Montana, by Gary J. Benson

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Market Outlook

Equipment

Amtrak: Reached an agreement with Bombardier for the purchase of 50 passenger coaches valued at approximately $50 million, with an option for an additional 50 cars at the same price and a second option for another 50 cars at a price to be negotiated. (Details, p. 28).

Conrail: Placed orders for 50 microprocessor-controlled diesel-electric locomotives, valued at $65 million, to be delivered in the first half of 1989—25 3,800-hp SD60 units from the Electro-Motive Division of General Motors; and 25 4,000-hp C40-8 units from General Electric.

General American Transportation Corp: Has acquired 184 tank cars from Chino Mines Co., which it will lease back to Chino under a full service lease; and 115 surplus cars from Monsanto Co., which will be placed in the service of other General American customers. The two transactions were valued at $7 million. Also completed was the acquisition of 692 tank cars from Olin Corp., under a long-term lease back agreement.

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority: Awarded a $45.5-million contract to Bombardier for 50 commuter coaches. They will be identical to 40 coaches which Bombardier supplied to MBTA in 1987. The cars are based on a Pullman design which Bombardier acquired when it purchased Pullman Technology Inc. in 1986. Deliveries are to begin in the summer of 1989.

Trailer Train: Has increased its 1988 capital budget to $170 million from a previously announced $150 million.

Facilities

Chicago, Central & Pacific: A $4.4-million program to upgrade 60 miles of CC&P between the Iowa cities of Fort Dodge and LeMars includes installation of new ties and ballast, surfacing, and bridge repairs.

CSX Transportation: Will construct a new $5.6-million car repair shop at Cumberland, Md., which will replace two existing facilities. The new facility will be used for routine maintenance and inspections on cars operating through the Cumberland area and is designed to improve turnaround time for unit coal trains serving mines in northeastern West Virginia and western Maryland.

Metra (Chicago): Awarded a $44.5-million contract to Benson/Rausch Joint Venture for reconstruction of its Western Avenue yard and maintenance base. The four-year project includes construction of a 105,000-square-foot preengineered coach and locomotive heavy repair shop, a train-washing facility, combined engineering maintenance and security building, and a locomotive fueling and sanding facility.

Revenue freight carloadings

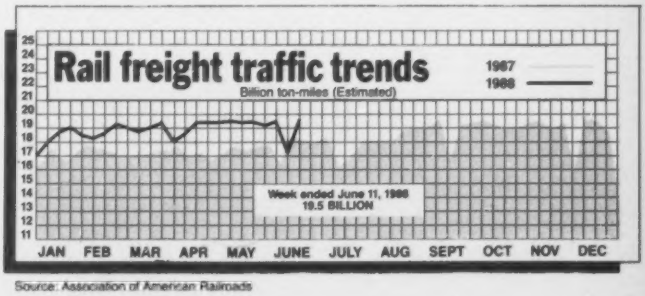
Commodity	June 11 week	June 4 week	May 28 week	May 21 week	May 14 week
Grain	32,879	26,905	31,692	31,061	32,955
Other farm products	3,992	3,518	3,765	3,568	3,470
Metallic ores	22,252	18,764	19,635	19,164	20,841
Coal	117,846	106,125	120,307	115,653	118,561
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	19,044	15,854	18,768	18,355	19,243
Nonmetallic minerals	10,550	9,798	10,561	11,606	10,968
Grain mill products	11,002	9,629	11,261	11,108	10,697
Food and kindred products	10,971	9,746	11,340	10,953	11,051
Primary forest products	10,030	8,586	10,157	10,214	9,909
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,931	6,829	8,567	8,100	7,898
Pulp, paper and allied products	12,323	12,755	12,648	12,265	12,220
Chemicals and allied products	26,956	23,952	26,597	27,285	27,182
Petroleum products	5,269	4,763	5,139	5,172	5,173
Stone, clay and glass products	11,542	9,986	11,933	11,752	11,777
Coke	5,797	5,429	5,333	5,419	6,011
Metals and products	10,419	10,340	11,444	10,336	10,092
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,555	18,906	22,127	23,426	22,338
Waste and scrap materials	9,771	8,094	9,867	10,213	9,895
Forwarder and shipper assn. traffic	2,439	2,186	2,595	2,601	2,437
All other carloads	82,060	69,189	82,470	79,836	80,173
Total Cars Loaded	435,848	381,396	436,286	423,987	432,891
% change from previous year	2.8	(10.2)	18.6	3.3	6.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (billion)	19.5	17.2	19.6	19.1	19.4
% change from previous year	5.2	(8.4)	20.0	5.3	7.6

Total:	1988	1987	% change
23 weeks	437.7	403.6	8.4

Piggyback loadings

	June 4 week	May 28 week	May 21 week	May 14 week	May 7 week
Trailers/containers	100,671	110,969	110,626	110,676	110,471

Cumulative total, 22 weeks		% change from 1987
Trailers/containers	2,369,579	5.4


Rail freight traffic trends
Billion ton-miles (Estimated)
1987
1988
Week ended June 11, 1988
19.5 BILLION
JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUNE JULY AUG SEPT OCT NOV DEC

Source: Association of American Railroads

Santa Fe: Will spend more than $7 million on 1988-89 expansion of intermodal terminals at Chicago and Kansas City. Improvements at Chicago will include construction of two loading/unloading tracks, widening of the space between existing intermodal tracks and paving of an additional 10 acres for trailer/container storage and handling. At Kansas City, Santa Fe will construct additional running tracks to expedite movement of intermodal trains. The addition of a Travelift crane will give the terminal three overhead loading/unloading devices.